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colonies the same principles which guide the search after truth in other subjects, and not before then.

CLIVE DAY.

The Great Days of Versailles. By G. F. BRADBY. (London: Smith Elder and Company; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1906. Pp. viii, 384.)

MR. BRADBY'S title indicates accurately the contents of his book. The great days of Versailles were in the reign of Louis XIV., and the court life of Versailles in the latter years of Louis's reign our author has described. The subject is not new, but probably it will never lose its charm. The court life of Louis XIV. is not one of the great chapters of history, but it is devoid neither of interest nor importance.

The sources from which information as to this period can be obtained are familiar, and Mr. Bradby has consulted them with care and with discrimination. The memoirs of Saint Simon will always be the most important, as it is the most interesting record of the later days of Louis XIV., and yet, as Mr. Bradby justly says, no writer needs to be read in a more critical spirit. In addition to the many volumes indited by the Duke of Saint Simon, are the memoirs of Dangeau, the letters of Madame de Maintenon and of the Princess Palatine, and the numerous other memoirs of the period. Mr. Bradby has consulted those of most value, and he has used his material with good judgment. Occasionally some anecdote is told, some incident related, which a severely critical historian might reject, but in this there is no great harm. A collection of social gossip, a history of court life, of pageantry and parade, does not require, perhaps, to be investigated in so rigid a spirit of criticism, as if different and more important fields of historical research were under examination.

In his book Mr. Bradby has told us much of the solemn splendor, of the minute ceremonial, which to those of this generation would seem so tedious, by which the existence of the great king was surrounded. He has described very fairly the character of the sovereign, who in many ways was an unusual man. Mr. Bradby does not exaggerate the foibles and frailties, the dullness and the limitations of the king, nor does he underestimate the elements of unusual strength that were found in that unusual combination. As he justly says, the character of Louis XIV. was "full of contradictions, beset with unexpected shallows and equally unexpected depths".

Apart from a description of the life of the court, of the splendors of Versailles, and its social etiquette, there is a detailed account of a few who were its most prominent figures. Some of them were wholly unprofitable and uninteresting, like Monsieur, Monseigneur, and the Duke of Berry. Others, like Madame de Maintenon, the Princess Palatine and the Duchess of Burgundy, would have been interesting to know when alive, and it is interesting to read of their careers. To all

of them Mr. Bradby is fair. As we have said, some legends he picks up from his Saint Simon and other memoir-writers, that would not bear the test of rigid analysis, but they are not important.

One minor peculiarity may be referred to. Mr. Bradby seems to have an extraordinary taste for death-bed details; to the closing scenes he gives a space which seems excessive. The people at Versailles died very much like those of less importance. To be sure, formality and pageantry did not cease even at the death-bed, and perhaps it is for this reason that our author describes in so much detail the farewell hours of kings and dauphins.

It is possible that an equally vivid description of life at Versailles could have been given in somewhat less space and with somewhat less of detail. But condensation has its dangers. The advocate who speaks with fullness and reiteration is more apt to persuade his jury, than he who contents himself with a bare and condensed statement of facts. Mr. Bradby's book gives a fair account of phases of life and thought which are now as extinct, and seem almost as remote, as the ways and usages of the Pharaohs, and in the study of them one can find much interest and some profit.

JAMES BRECK PERKINS.

La Révolution Industrielle au XVIII^e Siècle; Essai sur les Commencements de la Grande Industrie Moderne en Angleterre. Par PAUL MANTOUX. [Bibliothèque de la Fondation Thiers, IX.] (Paris: Société Nouvelle de Librairie et d'Édition. 1906. Pp. 544.)

THE Industrial Revolution in England offers a field for historical research still inadequately explored. Over two decades have elapsed since the fragmentary studies of Held and Toynbee. It has remained for a foreigner, after several years of investigation, to make from a wider range of sources than either of these a serious examination of this difficult subject,—difficult not only from the complication of the questions involved but from the comparative paucity of evidence available for their resolution. M. Mantoux, with considerable thoroughness and critical discrimination, has used a large part of the printed contemporary material, the *Journals of the House of Commons* as well as the statutes, the observations of foreign travellers as well as the assertions of native pamphleteers, some four or five local newspaper files besides the *Annual Register* and the *Gentleman's Magazine*. He has also of course consulted more recent books, general and local, biographical and technical. But more than any of his forerunners he has utilized documentary material, the Place and Webb collections in London, the Wedgewood papers in Liverpool, the Soho, Wyatt, Timmins and Clarke papers in Birmingham and the Owen papers in Manchester. The result is a well-written book which for the time being will stand as the best description we possess of this great turning-point in economic history.